

CPR Commission Hearing
Testimony of
Sean R. Edgar, Executive Director, Clean Fleets Coalition

Introduction

Thank you for providing this venue for my brief comments focusing on air quality aspects of the Commission's recommendations. The goal of more efficient and effective governance is a noble task and the Commission's consideration of the Coalition's comments are appreciated.

Personal Background and Experience of Sean Edgar

Executive Director of the Clean Fleets Coalition. The Coalition is an association of privately-owned solid waste collection and transportation companies throughout California. Mr. Edgar is a registered lobbyist in California with extensive interaction with the Air Resources Board, having participated in the implementation of the ARB's Diesel Risk Reduction Plan from 2000 to the present. Mr. Edgar's previous experience related to fuels and transportation was as a petroleum retailer for a major brand and as a Smog Check Gold Shield test and repair station owner in the Los Angeles Air Basin.

Clean Fleets Coalition Role in the Transportation Industry

Member companies operate locally-based fleets that provide waste collection and recycling services to residents and businesses. These fleets are distinct from interstate or long-haul fleets that travel major transportation corridors. Fleets subject to local and statewide rules. Heavy interaction with the 35 air districts and the ARB. Specialty equipment needed to perform a critical public service. Operate largely under rate control, with limited ability to pass along new regulatory cost to customers. Have put best foot forward in implementing statewide Refuse Rule effective in July this year.

Specific Comments and Recommendations on the CPR Report

Approximately 13 of the 35 recommendations in this Resource Conservation and Environmental Protection section pertain to our industry. We are in support of Recommendations 1, 10, 15, 18, 19, 22, 25, 26, and 27. I will limit my comments to two recommendations and add a brief note on the connection with Recommendation INF 24 regarding a uniform fuel strategy for California's future.

1. Consolidate the Air Resources Board into the New Dept of Environmental Protection

We support this recommendation with the qualification that an expert advisory function will be critical to going forward in implementing air quality improvement programs.

2. RES 32—Broaden use of environmental fees

We are deeply concerned that targeted funds for transportation improvements or recycling could be shifted to unrelated areas creating less certainty for stakeholders.

3. INF 24—Developing a fuel strategy

California's unique fuel formulations lend to higher prices and huge refiner investments for minor emission reductions. The CPR recommendation to establish a dialogue among state agencies to forge a cogent fuel strategy is positive. As end users, we advocate federally-harmonized standards. As a footnote, the California Energy Commission projections of a transportation fuel shortage will require innovation and alternate sources of energy such as fuels from biomass that our industry would like to further.

Conclusion

Thank you for considering our input as this historic and ambitious process continues.